

Senate Resolution 540

By: Senators Harp of the 29th, Johnson of the 1st and Goggans of the 7th

A RESOLUTION

1 Remembering and honoring the life and ministry of Dr. William H. Hinson; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, William H. "Bill" Hinson was born in Snipesville, Georgia, on September 5,
4 1936; and

5 WHEREAS, he received his Bachelor of Arts from Georgia Southern University in 1958, a
6 Bachelor of Divinity from Candler School of Theology in 1960, a Master of Sacred Theology
7 from Boston University in 1961, and a Doctor of Sacred Theology from Candler School of
8 Theology in 1970; and

9 WHEREAS, he preached his first sermon at age 18 and went "on to be recognized as one of
10 the most gifted preachers in Methodism" and, indeed, in the world; his passion and all
11 consuming love for preaching the hallmark of his 50 years of ministry; and

12 WHEREAS, he began his ministry serving in the Baxley Circuit, Atlanta, Douglas,
13 Savannah, Columbus, and Albany, Georgia, before moving to Texas in 1983 where he spent
14 18 years as senior pastor of one of the nation's largest churches, the First United Methodist
15 Church of Houston, which became the most ethnically diverse congregations in the whole
16 Methodist Church under his leadership; and

17 WHEREAS, he preached the Gospel with clarity and conviction, gave a clear and unreserved
18 call to discipleship, honored the Scripture as the ultimate authority and the cross of Jesus
19 Christ lifted up as the sole source of salvation for human kind, and brought 8,500 new
20 members to the Houston church of which 3,500 were by profession of faith; and

21 WHEREAS, he was a missions pastor, who believed in taking the Gospel to the whole world
22 and inspired his members to do more for the poor than many denominations, including
23 sending "The Spirit of Grace" filled with food, clothing, medical supplies, and grain to

1 orphans and the poor in North Korea and establishing Methodist missions in Cambodia,
2 Thailand, Russia and Eastern Europe; and

3 WHEREAS, he placed a high priority on the youth of his churches, developing them
4 spiritually throughout their Deep Creek, North Carolina tubing and camping adventures
5 where many of them gave their hearts and lives to Christ; and

6 WHEREAS, he authored several inspirational books and provided excellent leadership
7 within the United Methodist Church in numerous capacities including Founding Member and
8 President of the Board of *The Confessing Movement with the United Methodist Church*; and

9 WHEREAS, in retirement, he was actively involved with duties at First Methodist
10 Huntsville, yet he continued preaching at many annual conferences, pastors' schools, camp
11 meetings, and revivals at home and abroad, continued writing, consulting, and being involved
12 with evangelism to Africa through Africa University, and teaching at Asbury Seminary in
13 addition to pursuing his hobbies of gardening, golfing, traveling, and spending time with his
14 13 grandchildren; and

15 WHEREAS, he was a faithful and devoted husband to his junior high sweetheart and wife
16 of 48 years, Jean Laird Hinson, and together they reared three wonderful children, Elizabeth
17 Hinson Elder, John Laird Hinson, and Catherine Hinson Hicks who married John Elder,
18 Emily Hinson, and Joseph Hicks; and

19 WHEREAS, the title he loved most was being Awdaddy to Catherine, Jonathan, Anna,
20 Rebecca, and Rachel Elder; William, Laura, Sarah, and Melanie Hinson; and Margaret, Jean,
21 Joseph, and Abigail Hicks; and

22 WHEREAS, by the example he made of his life, he made this world a better place in which
23 to live, and with his passing, the State of Georgia has lost an esteemed native son.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
25 join together to express their deepest regret at the passing of Dr. William H. Hinson and
26 extend their most sincere condolences to his family.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
28 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Dr. William H. Hinson.